

LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

Level Of Service (LOS): A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream. Based on service measures such as speed and travel time, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort and convenience. In addition to travel volume, roadway LOS is affected by conditions such as the number of access points, lane width, number of lanes and percentage of large vehicles. The conditions characterizing roadway LOS are:

LOS A



Best operating condition is considered free flow

Users are unaffected by the presence of others

LOS D



Approaching unstable flow

High passing demand, limited passing capacity

An acceptable condition for arterial and collector roadways in the community

LOS B



Reasonably free-flowing conditions

Some influence by others

LOS E



Unstable flow near capacity

LOS E often quickly changes to LOS F because of disturbances in traffic flow

LOS C



Constrained constant flow below speed limits

Additional attention required by drivers to maintain safe operations

Comfort levels of the driver decline noticeably

LOS F



Worst conditions with heavily congested flow, traffic demand exceeding capacity

Poor travel time, low comfort and convenience